

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
/062 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2284  
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3640

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PROP, EG, UR, US  
SUBJECT: DISINFORMATION

REF: CAIRO 3530

1. MARCH 1 PAO AND IO CALLED ON ROSE AL YUSUF BOARD CHAIRMAN SHARQAWI TO DISCUSS FORGERY CASE. SHARQAWI CLEARLY SOUGHT TO CONVEY HIS CONTRITION WITHOUT ACTUALLY APOLOGIZING. HE STRESSED POINT MADE IN LATEST ROSE ISSUE THAT MAGAZINE WELCOMED EMBASSY STATEMENT. PAO SAID WE REGRETTED THAT MAGZINE HAD PUBLISHED SUCH A SUSPICIOUS DOCUMENT WITHOUT FIRST CHECKING IT OUT. SHARQAWI CLAIMED HE WOULD CHECK IN FUTURE, AND WELCOMES FRANK "EXCHANGE OF IDEAS" WITH US. HE ASKED WHO HAD FORGED DOCUMENT. PAO SAID HE WAS NOT SURE AND COULD NOT SPECULATE, SUGGESTED EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS MIGHT INVESTIGATE SAME QEUSTION, TO WHICH SHARAQAI REPIED THAT PRIME MINISTER SALEM HAD ASKED HIM TO DO SO AND HE WOULD PURSUE IT. SHARQAWI STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH HE IS LEFTIST HE IS GOOD MUSLIM AND DOES NOT AT ALL SUPPORT SOVIETS, NOR WOULD HE NOT ALLOW COMMUNIST WRITER TO DO SO. (COMMENT: LATTER DISTINCTION MADE ALSO IN SALAH HAFIZ ARTICLE REPORTED REFTEL. SHARQAWI OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED BY INCIDENT. HOWEVER, NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT THIS WILL DO ANYTHING TO PREVENT ANTI-US ARTICLES BY ROSE IN FUTURE.)

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2. SHARQAWI COMMENTED THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE "CAMPAIGN" AGAINST SADAT IN US PRESS, AS THERE WAS IN SOVIET AND LIBYAN PRESS. ASKED FOR EVIDENCE OF THIS, HE PRODUCED TWO ARTICLES ON EGYPT IN INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, BY SULZBURGER JANUARY 17 AND BY HENRY TANNER FEBRAURY 12-13. PAO AND IO ATTEMPTED DISSUADE SHARQAWI FROM IDEA THERE WAS DELIBERATE "CAMPAIGN" AND STRESSED

THAT AMERICAN JOURNALISTS FREE TO WRITE WHAT THEY WISH, INDEPENDENT OF OUTSIDE INFLUENCE, AS CONTRASTED WITH JOURNALISTS IN USSR. SHARQAWI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD, BUT SAID MANY EGYPTIANS BELIEVE ESPECIALLY WASHINGTON POST, HERLAD TRIBUNE AND NEWSWEEK HAVE ANTI-SADAT BIAS. (COMMENT: PERSISTENT PROBLEM HERE, ESPECIALLY AMONG EGYTIAN LIKE SHARAQI WHO DO NOT KNOW US WELL, IS SUSPICION THAT IDEA WHICH APPEARS IN TWO PLACES IS EVIDENCE OF "CAMPAIGN").).

3. ARTICLE ON OUR DISINFORMATION CASE APPEARED IN WEEKLY AL TASWON AL SIAYASI DATED FEB. 27. WRITER MAMDUH RIDA SAYS FORGED DOCUMENT WAS RECEIVED IN EGYPT "MONTHS AGO" BUT ALL RECIPENTS IGNORED IT BECAUSE ITS "AIM WAS CLEAR", IE TO HARM US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. RIDA CLAIMS SEVERAL UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS WHO SAW DOCUMENT RIDICULED IT AND EVEN SHOWED IT TO OTHERS AS EXAMPLE OF "NAIVE" AND "CHEAP OLD TRICKS." RIDA ASKS RHETORICALLY WHY, WHEN UNIVERSITY PEOPLE AND JOURNALISTS REACTED NEGATIVELY AGAINST DOCUMENT, DID ONE EGYPTIAN MAGAZINE PUBLISH IT PROMINENTLY. RIDA TAKES CARE EXPLICITLY AT BEGINNING AND IMPLICITLY AT END OF ARTICLE TO DISCLAIM IN ADVANCE ANY ACCUSATION THAT HE IS SAYING THIS FOR SAKE OF DEFENDING U.S. (COMMENT: HIS ARTICLE IS HELPFUL, BUT CIRCULATION AND READERSHIP OF THIS PERIODICAL UNFORTUNATELY IS SMALL. SO FAR DAILIES HAVE NOT COMMENTED ON CASE.)  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009